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...and the ...
JOURNEY

MAY 1954
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FEAR



*DEADLINE for DEATH
EMPIRES TWO
Make Mine HORROR
Revenge of the CORPSE*

HERE'S-A WITCHES BREW THAT
WILL CHILL YOU! MIX ONE PART
MURDER WITH TWO PARTNERS WHO
HATE EACH OTHER, ADD A DASH OF
BITTERNESS AND SERVE IN AN
OLD HOLLOWED-OUT SKULL, WELL
FLAVORED WITH BATS, COBWEBS,
AND THE DUST FROM A ROTTEN
COFFIN! LET STAND FOR TWENTY-
FIVE YEARS, THEN OPEN AND
YOU'LL FIND THE THING IN
THE ROOM...

Make Mine HORROR

Valerie
Brookly



THE TIME - TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO DURING
PROHIBITION! CUFF JENKINS AND RATSZY DUGAN,
TWO HARD TYPES, MAKE A LITTLE BUSINESS TRIP...

LUCKY YOU GOT THE TIP ON
THAT TRUCK LOAD OF BRANDY.
THE RANSON BOYS ARE
RUNNING IN TONIGHT, CUFF!
HEH-HEH! WE'LL HIJACK
THEM CHARACTERS GOOD!

SURE! REAL
IMPORTED BRANDY,
TOO. WORTH A
FORTUNE!

HEY, CUFF!
WHAT YA
STOPPING
HERE FOR?

PLENTY OF
TIME! I WANTA
SHOW YA SOME-
THING! A LITTLE
SURPRISE FOR MY
GAL MABEL!





WHAT YA THINK, RATSY?
IT'S MINE! I'M BUILDING
IT FOR MABEL AND ME!
I AIN'T TOLD A SOUL
YET BUT YOU!

HUH! YOU
MEAN YOU'RE
GONNA LIVE
HERE?



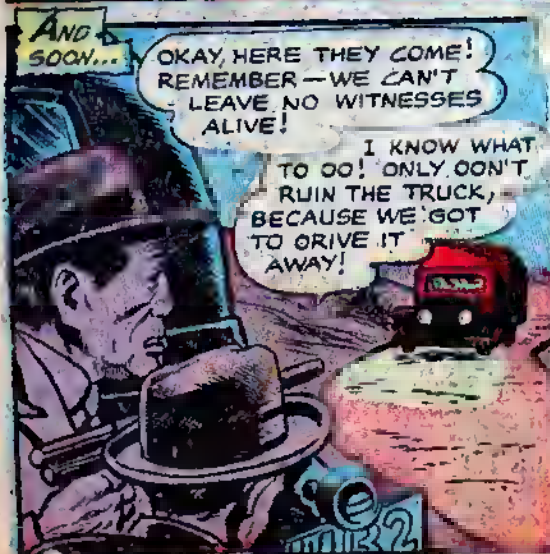
SURE! GET WISE, CHUMP! PROHIBITION AIN'T
GONNA LAST MUCH LONGER! I'M GETTING
OUT, TURNING RESPECTABLE! ME AND
MABEL WILL LIVE HERE AND BE REAL
PILLOWS OF SOCIETY!

YA MEAN PILLARS!
BUT WHAT WE
GOING DOWN IN
THE BASEMENT
FOR?

SEE — A SECRET ROOM! SOUND-PROOF! THIS SURE—
HIDDEN BUTTON OPENS IT! I EVEN SURE! IF
GOT WATER PIPEO INTO IT! YOU'RE EVER ON
MIGHT COME IN AWFUL THE LAM AGAIN! BUT HOW
HANDY SOMETIME! ABOUT THAT TRUCK-LOAD OF
EXPENSIVE BRANDY? WE
AIN'T GOT ALL
NIGHT!



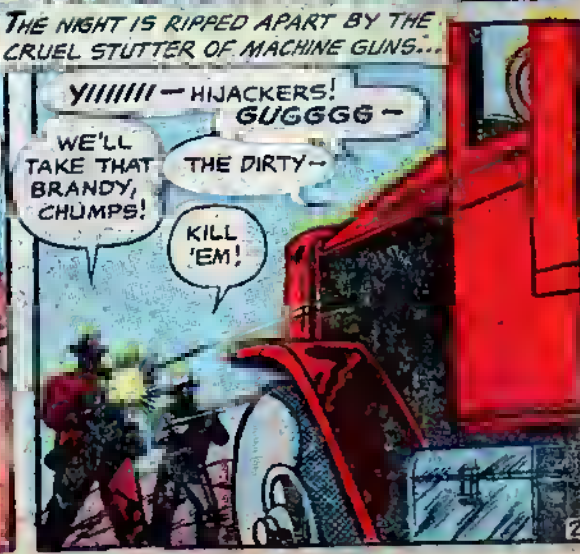
SO LATER... YEAH, ME AND MABEL
GOT BIG PLANS! IF
YER EVER — (CHUCKLE) — IN
TROUBLE, RATSY,
I'LL LET YA STICK TO
HIDE IN MY BUSINESS, WILL YA!
SECRET THEM RANSOM
ROOM! HOODS WILL BE ALONG
ANY MINUTE NOW WITH
THAT BRANDY!



AND
SOON...

OKAY, HERE THEY COME!
REMEMBER — WE CAN'T
LEAVE NO WITNESSES
ALIVE!

I KNOW WHAT
TO DO! ONLY DON'T
RUIN THE TRUCK,
BECAUSE WE GOT
TO DRIVE IT
AWAY!



THE NIGHT IS RIPPED APART BY THE
CRUEL STUTTER OF MACHINE GUNS...

YIIIIII — HIJACKERS!
GUGGGG —

WE'LL
TAKE THAT
BRANDY,
CHUMPS!

THE DIRTY—

KILL
'EM!

BUT SOMETHING GOES WRONG...

YOU CRUMMY BUM! I'LL SHOW YA...

OWWWWWH-
I'M H-HIT!
RATSY—HELP!

I'LL GET HIM!

THANKS, PAL! I WAS PLANNING ON GETTING RIO' OF CUFF ANYWAY! AND YOU!

GAAAAA—

BUT CUFF IS NOT DEAD...

D-DON'T LEAVE ME, RATSY!
OH—I'M HURT BAD!
G-GET ME HOME TO M-MABEL!

HEH-HEH-GET YA HOME OKAY, CUFF!
TO YOUR NEW HOUSE THAT YOU AIN'T EVER GOING TO LIVE IN! I GOT PLANS FOR YOU BOY!

AN HOUR LATER...

RATSY! WHAT YA C-CDMING HERE FDR? I TELL YA I'M OYING!

SO GO AHEAD AND DIE, PAL! SAVE ME THE TROUBLE OF KILLING YOU. I GOT BIG PLANS, TOO!

RATSY WORKS LIKE A DEMON UNLOADING THE TRUCK AND STORING THE PRECIOUS BRANDY...

THERE! SOON AS I—(GASP)—STORE THESE IN YOUR SECRET ROOM, I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU, CUFF! SURE WAS A GOOD IDEA OF YOURS—BUILDING THAT LITTLE ROOM!

H-HURRY UP! I'M BLEEDING TO O-DEATH!

AT LAST... NO! WHERE YA TAKING ME? I NEED A DOCTOR, RATSY! YDU AIN'T PLANNING—YOU! WOULDNT.T..

HEH-HEH! WOULDNT I, THOUGH? YER GOING RIGHT IN THAT ROOM WITH THE BRANDY, CUFF!

DON'T WORRY, CUFF! YOU WON'T HAVE ANY FOOD, BUT YDU SAID YOURSELF THAT YOU HAD INSTALLED RUNNING WATER! YOU CAN HAVE ALL THE—(CHUCKLE)—BRANDY AND WATER YA WANT! SOUND-PROOF, TOO, SO NOBODY WILL—HEH-HEH—DISTURB YA!

NO—DON'T! D-DON'T PUT ME IN THERE TO DIE! YAAAAAAA—PLEASE!



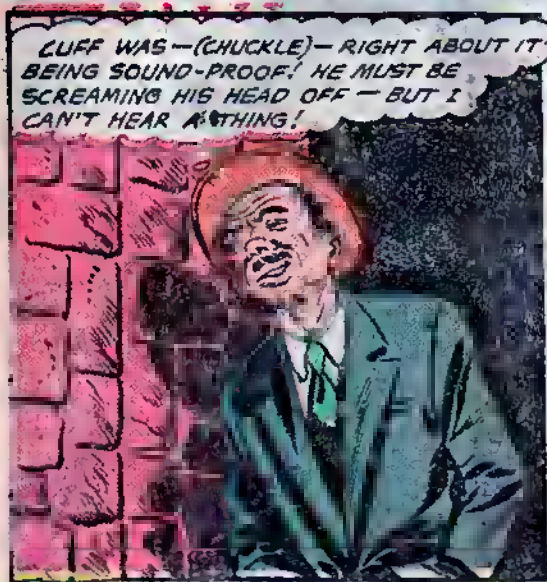
AND THE BEAUTY IS THAT NOBODY KNOWS ABOUT THIS PLACE, CUFF! JUST YOU AND ME! THE GUYS THAT BUILT IT WON'T TALK, BEING SCARED OF YOU! AND I AIN'T GONNA TALK, THAT'S SURE!

NO! I'LL DIE! O-DON'T, RATS! I'LL GIVE YA ANYTHING—AAAAAAA—

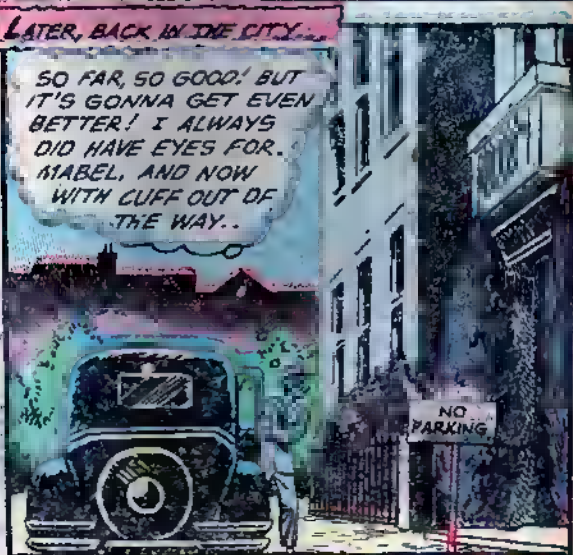


I KNOW WHAT YA WAS GONNA GIVE ME, CUFF! JUST WHAT I'M GIVING YOU! ONLY I GOT THE BREAKS! GOODBYE NOW!

NO! YIMIEEEE... CUT OFF BY DOOR!



CUFF WAS—(CHUCKLE)—RIGHT ABOUT IT! BEING SOUND-PROOF! HE MUST BE SCREAMING HIS HEAD OFF—BUT I CAN'T HEAR A THING!



LATER, BACK IN THE CITY...

SO FAR, SO GOOD! BUT IT'S GONNA GET EVEN BETTER! I ALWAYS DID HAVE EYES FOR. NABEL, AND NOW WITH CUFF OUT OF THE WAY...



AND... ...SO THAT'S THE WAY IT WAS, SUGAR! THE RANSOM MOB GOT CUFF AND I HAD TO DROP HIM IN THE SOUND! WE DON'T WANT NO TROUBLE WITH THE LAW! NOW IT'S JUST YOU AND ME, BABY!

SURE, RATS! B-BUT YOU GOT TO GIVE ME A LITTLE TIME TO GET USED TO THE IDEA! 'POOR-CUFF! YOU CAN CALL ME TOMORROW, RATS!



BUT AS SOON AS RATS LEAVES...

HELLO, POLICE? YOU GOT A REWARD FOR RATS DUGAN, AIN'T YOU? GOOD! NOW HERE IS WHERE YOU CAN FIND HIM...

THE CRUMB! HE DID CUFF IN, I KNOW HE DID! AND I'M SET HIM EVEN!

SOME WEEKS LATER, RATSY FACES A HARD-BOILED JUDGE...

I WISH I COULD PROVE THAT YOU'RE GUILTY OF MURDER, DUGAN, BUT UNFORTUNATELY WE CAN'T! BUT YOU HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OF CERTAIN OTHER CRIMES, FOR WHICH I

SENTENCE YOU TO THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AT HARD LABOR...

THIRTY-FIVE—
(GULP)—YEARS!

RATSY KEEPS HIS MOUTH SHUT—AND THE DREARY YEARS IN PRISON DRAG PAST...

FIFTEEN YEARS NOW I'VE BEEN MAKING LITTLE ONES OUT OF BIG ONES! BUT I AIN'T FORGETTING MABEL FOR TURNING ME IN! WHEN I GET OUT...

NO TALKING, RATSY! NOT EVEN TO YOURSELF!

TOMORROW! TOMORROW I GET OUT! I GOT TIME OFF FOR GOOD BEHAVIOR— BUT I'VE STILL BEEN IN THIS STINKING PLACE FOR TWENTY YEARS! AND MABEL IS GONNA PAY FOR EVERY ONE OF THEM!

NEXT DAY IT IS A CHANGED RATSY WHO WALKS THROUGH THE GRIM GATES...

S'LONG, RATSY! DON'T COME BACK!

HE'LL BE BACK! THEY ALL COME BACK! YOU'LL SEE!

GOODBYE! IF I NEVER SEE YA AGAIN, IT'LL BE TOO SOON!

I'M BROKE, BUT I CAN FIX THAT! THAT BRANDY I HID IN CLIFF'S HOUSE MUST BE WORTH PLENTY BY NOW! BUT I'VE GOT TO FIGURE A WAY TO GET AT IT!

SMOKING PERMITTED

LATER, RATSY GETS A SURPRISE...

MABEL? SURE I REMEMBER HER! SHE DONE ALL RIGHT—FOUND A WILL OF CLIFF JENKINS' THAT LEFT HER A HOUSE! SHE'S LIVING IN IT RIGHT NOW! DON'T EVEN SPEAK TO HER OLD FRIENDS THESE DAYS!

A HOUSE? CLIFF LEFT HER A HOUSE!

AND STILL TALK ABOUT LUCK! THERE'S THE SAME HOUSE—AND MABEL'S LIVING IN IT! ALONE! HERE'S WHERE I—(CHUCKLE)—KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE!



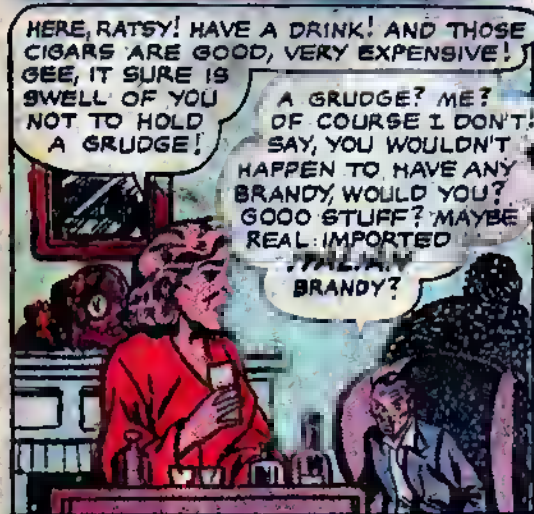
SO... WHAT DO YOU—
EEEEEE—
R-RATSY!

YEAH, ME! AIN'T YOU GLAD TO SEE YOUR OLD FRIEND, BABY? BECAUSE I'M SURE GLAD TO SEE YOU!



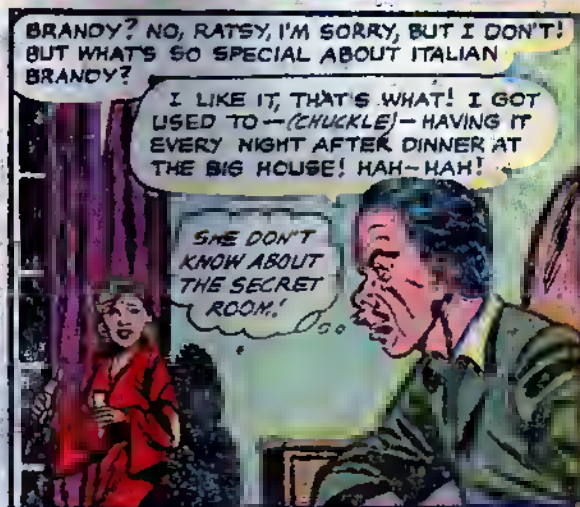
RATSY! I COULDN'T HELP IT—THE COPS—THEY TORTURED ME, MADE ME TALK! HONEST, I DIDN'T MEAN...

SURE! THE COPS ALWAYS TORTURE PEOPLE, MABEL! BUT WHAT YOU AFRAID OF? I JUST CAME FOR A NICE LITTLE 'CHAT!



HERE, RATSY! HAVE A DRINK! AND THOSE CIGARS ARE GOOD, VERY EXPENSIVE! GEE, IT SURE IS SWELL OF YOU NOT TO HOLD A GRUDGE!

A GRUDGE? ME? OF COURSE I DON'T! SAY, YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO HAVE ANY BRANDY, WOULD YOU? GOOO STUFF? MAYBE REAL IMPORTED ITALIAN BRANDY?



BRANDY? NO, RATSY, I'M SORRY, BUT I DON'T! BUT WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT ITALIAN BRANDY?

I LIKE IT, THAT'S WHAT! I GOT USED TO—(CHUCKLE)—HAVING IT EVERY NIGHT AFTER DINNER AT THE BIG HOUSE! HAH-HAH!

SHE DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE SECRET ROOM!



HAH-HAH! YOU ALWAYS WAS A CARD, RATSY! R-RATSY! WHAT ARE YOU G-GOING TO D-DO?

YES, HAH-HAH! BIG JOKE! BUT YOU DON'T KNOW THE REAL JOKE, MABEL! THE REAL BIG JOKE! YOU—HAH-HAH—YOU'VE BEEN LIVING WITH IT FOR OVER TWENTY YEARS!

YOU'VE BEEN LIVING WITH CUFF FOR TWENTY YEARS, BABY, AND DIDN'T EVEN KNOW IT! HO-HO-HO—HO—THAT'S RICH! HE'S BEEN ROTTING AWAY DOWN IN THAT SECRET HOLE IN THE BASEMENT, AND YOU—HAH-HAH-HAH—YOU'VE BEEN LIVING HERE ALL THE TIME, WONDERING WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO HIM! HO-HO-HO-HO-HO!

AAAAEE—
Y-YOU'RE LYING!



LYING, AM I? YOU'LL SEE! WAIT TILL YOU SEE THE ROTTEN BONES THAT USED TO BE CUFF! AH-HA-HA-HA-- BEST JOKE I EVER HEARD!

AAAAA--

RIGHT OVER HERE! I'LL FIND THE BUTTON, HAVE THE SECRET DOOR OPEN IN A MINUTE! ONLY DON'T EXPECT CUFF TO LOOK PRETTY, BABY! REMEMBER, HE'S BEEN IN HERE FOR A LONG TIME!

EEEEEE--

RATSY PRESSED THE BUTTON! THE DOOR SLIDES BACK AND...

UGH-- THAT S-SMELL! HORRIBLE! BUT JUST THE SAME WE'RE GOING IN, BABY!

I'M GONNA GET THAT BRANDY AND-- (CHUCKLE)-- LEAVE YOU WITH CUFF!

HELP! YIIIIII--

AND THEN-- SOMETHING APPEARS IN THE DOOR...

ARRRRR--GRRRRR-- ARFFFFFF--GRRR--

OH, GAAAAA-- C-CUFF!

B-BUT IT CAN'T-- HE'S BEEN IN THERE TWENTY YEARS! HE CAN'T BE ALIVE! YOWWWW--

RRRR-- ARFFFF--

B-BUT IT IS CUFF! CRAZY! LIKE A BIG--DOG! CUFF! DON'T YOU KNOW ME, CUFF? CUFF, PLEASE, DON'T, I--

RRRR-- GRRRR--

AAAEEEEEE--

RRRGGGG-- RRRRRR-- GRRRRR--

AAAIEEEE-- EEEEE--

THE WOMAN, HER MIND BLASTED BY THE TERRIBLE SIGHT, MANAGES SOMEHOW TO STUMBLE OUT INTO THE STREET...

EEEEEEEEE—
HELP! MAD
DOG! MAD DOG!
IN M-MY
B-BASEMENT!
AHHHNEEE—

MAD
DOG!

WE'LL
TAKE
CARE
OF IT,
LADY!



MOMENTS
LATER...

YOU SEE ANYTHING
YET, MIKE?

NO! BUT I
THOUGHT I
HEARD SOME-
THING, LIKE A
DOG GROWLING!



SUDDENLY...

OVER THERE,
IN THE CORNER!
GET IT!

YEAH, KILL IT QUICK!
WHEWWW — LOOK
AT THAT POOR
GUY'S THROAT!

RRR-GRR—
RRRR—
GRRR—



MIKE, IT AIN'T
A DOG! IT—IT'S
A MAN!

UGH! IF THAT'S HUMAN,
I'M CRAZY, TOO! BUT
YOU'RE RIGHT—IT'S
NO DOG! BUT
WHAT /S IT?



WEEKS LATER AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

COME ON, SIR,
HOW ABOUT
THAT STORY?

YEAH—THE PUBLIC
DESERVES THE TRUTH
ABOUT CUFF JENKINS
AND THE OTHERS! WHAT
HAPPENED TO CUFF?

FINGERPRINTS
PROVED THAT!
AND THE
WOMAN IS
PERMANENTLY
INSANE, SO
SHE'S NO HELP!
RATSY IS DEAD!
BUT I CAN TELL
YOU SOME-
THING...

YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT HIJACKING
YEARS AGO! THE NIGHT CUFF
DISAPPEARED! NOW HERE'S SOME-
THING YOU DIDN'T KNOW— THE
RONSON GANG USED A DECOY
TRUCK THAT NIGHT TO FOOL CUFF
AND RATSY! THE BRANDY WENT BY
ANOTHER ROAD. WITH SO MANY
RATSY GOT WAS A LOT OF CASES
MARKED BRANDY, BUT CONTAIN-
ING CANNED DOG FOOD!



The
End

DEADLINE for DEATH

EARL WATSON, ACE COLUMNIST OF THE GRAPHIC, AND ALL AROUND RAT, DIED TODAY... ALL THE FOLKS THAT EARL TRIPLE-CROSSED THINK IT COULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED TO A NASTIER GUY... BUT PEOPLE ALONG BROADWAY ARE SURE THAT EARL HAS RESERVED THE BEST TABLE IN XXXXX (CENSORED!)

SIGNED:
THE TYFEWRITER

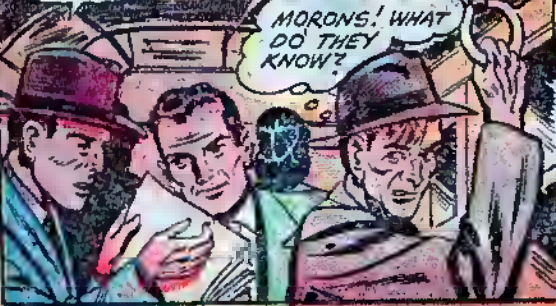
EARL WATSON, "DIRT-DIGGER" FOR THE GRAPHIC, STARTS THE NIGHT'S WORK...

YOU READ 'EARL WATSON'S COLUMN LATELY?

NAW! HE'S A REAL CRUM-BUM! I HEAR THE GRAPHIC AIN'T RENEWING HIS CONTRACT!

MORONS! WHAT DO THEY KNOW?

BUT THEY'RE RIGHT! THE GRAPHIC ISN'T GOING TO RENEW MY CONTRACT—NOT UNLESS I CAN COME UP WITH SOMETHING BIG!



BUT SOON EARL REALIZES THAT WORD THAT HE IS ON THE SKIDS HAS GOTTEN AROUND...

AND IN ANOTHER CLUB, EARL GETS THE SAME TREATMENT...

WHY THE CLAM ACT, MIKE? YOU MUST KNOW **SOME** DIRT ABOUT SOMEBODY! C'MON AND GIVE!

SORRY, MR. WATSON! NOT A THING GOING ON! IF I KNEW ANYTHING, I'D TELL YA!

HOW ABOUT THAT PLAYBOY, POINDEXTER? I HEAR HE HAD A FIGHT WITH A MOVIE STAR IN HERE THE OTHER NIGHT!

HERE, MR. WATSON? NOTHING TO IT! I HAVEN'T SEEN THAT PLAYBOY FOR MONTHS! I HAVEN'T GOT A THING FOR YOUR COLUMN!

AND STILL AGAIN...

OKAY, YOU GUYS! THANKS FOR NOTHING!

HAH-HAH! WHY DON'T YOU GIVE UP, WATSON?

YEAH! DON'T YOU KNOW WHEN YOU'RE WASHEO UP?

THE WORDS GOTTEN AROUND!

NOBODY WILL TELL YOU ANYTHING!

SO WHEN EARL GETS BACK TO HIS OFFICE...

HELLO, MINNA! ANYBODY CALL IN A HOT SCOOP — AS IF I DIDN'T KNOW!

NOT A THING, EARL! WAS IT PRETTY BAD TONIGHT?

I'LL RUN OUT AND GET US SOME COFFEE, DARLING! AND DON'T WORRY — SOMETHING WILL TURN UP! I KNOW IT WILL!

YOU'RE A NICE GAL, MINNA! I GUESS YOU'RE JUST ABOUT THE ONLY PERSON IN THE WORLD WHO LOVES ME!

AFTER MINNA GOES FOR COFFEE... MINNA'S WRONG! I'M THROUGH AND I KNOW IT! PEOPLE HATE ME NOW AND THEY WON'T TALK TO ME — AND WHEN PEOPLE WON'T TALK TO A GOSSIP COLUMNIST, HE'S REALLY WASHEO UP! I HAVEN'T GOT ONE GOOD ITEM FOR THE COLUMN!



JOURNEY INTO FEAR

EARL GAZES OUT THE WINDOW AT THE STREET SIXTEEN FLOORS BELOW, AND HAS STRANGE INCLINATIONS! BUT SUDDENLY...

HIS MIND REELING, EARL STARES DOWN AT THE LETTERS LEAPING MYSTERIOUSLY INTO BEING...

H-HUH! THE MACHINE — W-WRITING SOMETHING! B-BUT HOW...

IT—IT'S WRITING SOMETHING FOR ME! FOR MY COLUMN!... JACOB ROSS, HEIR TO A TOBACCO FORTUNE IN THE MILLIONS, WAS MURDERED THIS MORNING BY A GIRL HE JILTED ONLY LAST WEEK! THE ENRAGED BLONDE, USING A BUTCHER KNIFE...

DARKNESS SWIRLS AROUND EARL WATSON AND HE—FAINTS...

B-BUT THIS IS CRAZY! IT CAN'T BE—OH, MY HEAD, EVERYTHING IS TURNING BLACK...

AND WHEN HE REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS...

EARL! EARL, DARLING! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? WHAT IN THE WORLD HAPPENED?

HUH! OH, I— THE TYPEWRITER! DID YOU SEE PAPER IN THE TYPEWRITER?

WHAT A FIBBER YOU ARE, EARL! SAYING YOU DIDN'T HAVE A STORY! WANTED TO SURPRISE ME, I SUPPOSE! BUT I GAVE YOUR COPY TO THE DESK, JUST IN TIME TO MAKE THE DEADLINE!

WHAT! Y-YOU GAVE THEM THAT STORY! BUT I DIDN'T EXPLAIN—I MEAN THAT STORY...

THEN... HERE YOU ARE, MR. WATSON! CONGRATULATIONS! SOME STORY! WE GOT OUT AN EXTRA ON IT, BEAT ALL THE OTHER PAPERS!

AN EXTRA! YOU SEE, DARLING! THEY'LL HAVE TO RENEW YOUR CONTRACT NOW!

HOW DID YOU EVER FIND OUT ABOUT IT, EARL? NOBODY ELSE IN TOWN KNEW!

I, UH, I SORT OF STUMBLERED ON IT, MINNA! WHEWWW—LET ME SIT DOWN AND REST FOR A MINUTE!

Daily
TOBACCO MILLIONAIRE
STABBED TO DEATH BY
JILTED LOVER!
Exclusive story by
Graphic's Earl Watson

AND SO IT BEGAN! SCOOP FOLLOWED SCOOP, ALL FROM THE MYSTERIOUS TYPEWRITER! ONE NIGHT AFTER EARL HAS GOTTEN RID OF MINNA...

IT'S LATE TONIGHT! USUALLY IT WRITES AT THIS TIME EVERY NIGHT! AND SO FAR I'VE KEPT ANYBODY FROM FINDING OUT ABOUT IT, EVEN MY GIRL!

ANYWAY WHO WOULD BELIEVE ME? SOME-TIMES I STILL DOUBT ABOUT IT MYSELF!

SUDDENLY...

WOW! WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT OLD J.P. WAS 'A CROOK? BEEN A PILLAR OF SOCIETY FOR YEARS!

BROTHER, WHAT A STORY!

...THE MERCHANTS BANK WILL FOLD SOON, WITH LOSSES IN THE MILLIONS FOR DEPOSITORS... CHIEF CULPRIT IS J.P. ALEXANDER, PRESIDENT, WHO HAS BEEN STEALING MONEY FOR YEARS. HE PLANS TO TAKE OFF FOR MEXICO SOON WITH A COOL MILLION IN CASH...

EARL PRINTS THE STORY AND IMMEDIATELY THE NEXT MORNING...

I HOPE YOU CAN PROVE THAT STORY, WATSON! OH, I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN SEN-SATIONAL LATELY, BUT THIS—WELL, J.P. WILL SUE US FOR A MILLION IF YOU'RE WRONG!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, SIR! MY SOURCE IS, ER, MY SOURCE IS NEVER WRONG! YOU'LL SEE!

AND A FEW HOURS LATER...

THIS IS THE ONLY WAY! I CAN'T FACE THE DISGRACE!

AYEEEEEE00000—

LATER... WELL, EARL, YOU WERE RIGHT AGAIN! J.P.'S SUICIDE NOTE PROVES THAT, ALONG WITH THE RECORDS! BUT I'M CURIOUS, MAN, EXTREMELY CURIOUS! FOR A TIME YOU WERE SLIPPING BADLY, BUT NOW...

SORRY, SIR, BUT I CAN'T DIVULGE MY SOURCES, EVEN TO YOU! LET'S JUST SAY THAT THEY ARE, ER, FOOL-PROOF!

THE OLD BOY WOULD THINK I WAS CRAZY IF I TOLD HIM THE TRUTH!

SO EARL GOES BACK TO HIS OWN OFFICE WALKING ON AIR—TO FIND A SURPRISE...

HEY, THE MACHINE HAS BEEN WRITING WHILE I'VE BEEN GONE! FUNNY! NEVER DID THAT BEFORE!

HE GETS A NASTY SHOCK...

"...MINNA MARTIN, GIRL FRIDAY TO YE WRITER OF THIS COLUMN, WILL UP THE AISLE IT WITH CEDRIC LODGE III OF THE MARGARINE MILLIONS... WEDDING TO BE SOON... LOOKS LIKE YOURS TRULY WAITED TOO LONG TO ASK HER... LOVE, MINNA, AND LUCK..."

M-MINNA!
G-GOING TO MARRY THAT LODGE PUNK!
B-BUT SHE LOVES ME! I KNOW SHE LOVES ME!

HERE'S SOMETHING TO REMIND YOU, LODGE! STAY AWAY FROM MINNA MARTIN!

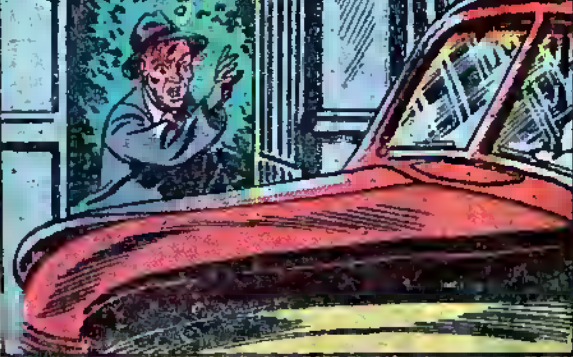
GAAAAAA...A-

MINUTES LATER...

TAXI! TAKE ME TO THE—
(GASP)—
GRAPHIC OFFICE!
HURRY!

NOBODY SAW ME!
THE STREET WAS DESERTED.
I'LL BE SAFE!

SURE, MISTER!
HOP IN!



STILL — THE MACHINE HAS NEVER BEEN WRONG! NOT ONCE! AND MINNA HAS DATED THAT LODGE CHARACTER A COUPLE OF TIMES WHEN I WAS BUSY! COULD BE! ONLY NOW THAT I KNOW, I'M GOING TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT! FOREWARNED IS — (CHUCKLE) — FORE-ARMED!

THAT NIGHT IN THE SWANKY SUTTON ROAD NEIGHBORHOOD...

HERE COMES LODGE NOW! GOT A LOAD ON, BY THE LOOKS OF HIM! I'LL JUST ROUGH HIM UP ENOUGH TO SCARE HIM AWAY FROM MY GIRL!

...MY ADELINE — SWEET ADELINE! IN ALL MY DREAMS YOUR FAIR FACE..

BUT THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT THE SPRAWLED BODY THAT SENDS COLD CHILLS UP EARL WATSON'S SPINE...

H-HE HIT HIS HEAD ON THE CURB AS HE FELL! DEAD! I — I'M A MURDERER! BUT I DIDN'T MEAN — I ONLY WANTED TO SCARE HIM!



BUT AS EARL REACHES HIS OFFICE...

EARL! WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU LOOK UPSET!

NOTHING! I'M ALL RIGHT! B-BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE NOW? I — I THOUGHT YOU HAD A DATE!



DARLING! YOU'RE REALLY JEALOUS! SO MY LITTLE TRICK WORKED AFTER ALL!

TRICK?
WHAT TRICK?



WHY, THE ITEM ABOUT CEDRIC LODGE III, DARLING! IT'S NOT TRUE, OF COURSE! I CAN'T STAND HIM! BUT I THOUGHT THAT IF I WROTE IT, YOU MIGHT BE JEALOUS AND ASK ME TO MARRY YOU...

MY HEAVENS! YOU WROTE THAT ITEM!

AND I JUST K-KILLED LODGE BECAUSE OF IT! I THOUGHT THE MACHINE WROTE IT!



SOMEHOW HE GETS RID OF MINNA AND SLUMPS AT HIS DESK IN BLACK DESPAIR! THEN IT BEGINS AGAIN...

WHAT CAN I DO? I'M A MURDERER—OH—THE MACHINE! WRITING SOMETHING...



THE MACHINE STOPS AND EARL LOOKS UP AS TWO BURLY MEN ENTER THE OFFICE...

DON'T ACT INNOCENT, WATSON! WE'VE GOT WITNESSES WHO SAW YOU MURDER LODGE!

W-WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU...

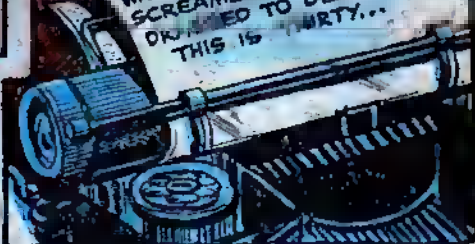
INCLUDING A TAXI-DRIVER WHO DROVE YOU FROM THE SCENE OF THE CRIME! COME ALONG PEACEFULLY NOW!



THE HORRIBLE WORDS SHRIEK UP AT HIM...

HUH! BUT THE MACHINE'S GONE CRAZY! ME—BURNT TO DEATH! LAUGHING AND SCREAMING! AND THIRTY—THIRTY...

...EARL WATSON, COLUMNIST FOR THE GRAPHIC, WAS BURNT TO DEATH TONIGHT! WATSON LAUGHED AND SCREAMED AS HE WAS OXIMIZED TO DEATH... THIS IS THIRTY...



SOME MONTHS LATER UP AT SING-SING...

NO! PLEASE, YOU CAN'T! NOT THE CHAIR! DON'T BURN ME! DON'T LET THE TYPEWRITER BE RIGHT! THIRTY-THIRTY! ANNNHHH—THIRTY...

THIS ONE IS REALLY 'NUTS!

WHAT'S HE MEAN BY TYPEWRITER? AND HE KEEPS YELLING THIRTY!



THIRTY—AN OLD NEWSPAPER TERM MEANING—THE END...

THE END

GHOST CLINIC

by Doctor Shade



THIRTEENTH STEP

Valerie Brosky

RYDEN, the prosecuting attorney, shook his head. As he walked nervously back and forth across the floor of Judge Carter's chambers, his footfalls were eerily silenced by the thick pile of the carpet. He knew Carter's gaunt, haggard eyes were on him, questioning, helpless. He knew the Judge's hands were trembling, as though some sort of spell had been laid on them. And Ryden did not know why. He suddenly turned.

"They used to call you 'The Hanging Judge', Joe," he said softly. "For twenty years you had the reputation of being a last-ditch defender of the law's letter. Nobody you thought guilty ever got away with anything—not in your court, Joe!" Then, angrily, he flung the appeal papers down on the desk. "And now you want to reprieve this convicted, murderous swine, Jabez Hunt!"

He glanced keenly at Judge Carter, but Carter said nothing. It was almost as if he dared not open his mouth.

Ryden planted his balled fists squarely on the desk and, bending over, he levelled a pair of burning eyes at the Judge.

"A charlatan, a dabbler in witch-craft, a disseminator of rank superstition. Finally a murderer of one of his own clients, following a private seance. Jabez Hunt is a murderer—and for the crassest of reasons, because a lonely old woman who believed him when he said he'd gotten in contact with her dead son's soul, left him all her money in her will!"

"There are always two sides to every question, Bill!" Carter shook his head feebly; he almost stammered the words. "After all, a jury could be wrong!"

The prosecuting attorney for the sovereign state stared at his old friend in astonishment.

"Joe," he began. "Joe! It wasn't only the opinion of the jury that Jabez Hunt was guilty. It was everyone's. Before you even saw the man yourself, you thought he was guilty of murder. Every scrap of evidence was against him. He practically convicted himself. You remember how coldly sneering he was, how contemptuous of the laws. He was clever, all right, but even the cleverest slip. They get so clever they think they're God. And when that happens, every bit of caution, of reason, goes. They think

they can get away with anything, lie their way out of any crime. That's what happened to Jabez Hunt. But he didn't get away with it—no thanks to you, Joe!"

"What—what do you mean?" Judge Carter mumbled, fearfully.

"The instant you saw Jabez Hunt in the courtroom for the first time, you changed!" Ryden grated. "You changed from a strict defender of your own philosophy. Against every legal procedure, every ounce of common sense, you tried tripping me up. You seemed terrified, Joe, lest Hunt be convicted. Don't you know every gossip column in town's been talking of little else until now?" He paused, then went on relentlessly. "Joe, what happened? Tell me, Joe. You can trust me. I know you weren't bribed, that you'd have shot the man who tried it—or hanged him, anyway."

JUDGE CARTER seemed to shrink in his chair. He gazed down at his fingernails, began to breathe heavily.

"I—I can't Bill!" he mumbled. "Why can't you let me alone? It's my career in jeopardy, not yours. Besides, what more do you want? You got your conviction, didn't you?"

"He threatened you, didn't he?" Ryden went on relentlessly. "He had his last word in court, didn't he? He said that if he died on the thirteenth and last step of the gallows, you'd die the same day, on the moment you climbed the thirteenth step to your own house!" Ryden crashed his fist down on the desk. "What rotten thing has turned your soul into jelly, Joe? In the name of God, why do you want to reprieve this monster, possibly open the way to the Governor's changing his sentence to a life term?"

Judge Carter stared at him numbly.

"You got your conviction, didn't you?" he whispered. His face was as stiff as a log of wood. "Yes, you got it. Let it satisfy you, Bill! For God's sake, don't ask me any questions!" He reached abruptly for the appeal papers and a pen.

Ryden struck it from his hands.

"If you sign that, you'll destroy your own career, you'll build gossip into truth." Ryden's voice shook with passion. "So help me, Joe, if you sign that reprieve, I'll demand an investigation of Judge Joe Carter!"

An instant later, he leaped forward. The Hanging Judge had fainted. Summoning an attendant, Ryden scribbled a quick note to be given to the Judge when he recovered. It asked him to wait until the execution was over. Ryden would see him home.

In his official car, as it sped to the death-house across the river, Ryden glanced at his wrist-watch. The execution would take place within a half-hour—unless, of course, reviving from the strange faint, Carter signed the reprieve.

But when the car pulled up before the prison gates, Ryden saw that no changes had taken place. He hurried up to the warden's office, anxious to speak for just one moment with Jabez Hunt. Warden Grimes received him courteously, looked pensive as Ryden put his question.

"I suppose you might see him for a moment," he said finally. "But you'll have to hurry!"

MINUTES later, Ryden, following a guard, was being led to the entrance to Execution Row. The door of Jabez Hunt's cell opened and Ryden stepped in; then the heavy steel door clanged shut.

Jabez Hunt, who was sitting on the sole cot in the cell, raised his bearded face.

"You'll get no reprieve, Hunt," Ryden said harshly.

"Frankly, I expected one," Hunt said, with a touch of sarcasm.

"You did, eh? I thought so. That's why I came here, Hunt!" The state's prosecuting attorney fixed the prisoner with a narrow look. "What have you done to Joe Carter?" he demanded. "What filthy power do you hold over him?" Ryden's fists clenched. "What lay behind that absurd threat you made? By heaven, man, speak. It's your last chance to rest your own soul. Your life's forfeit—I can't. I wouldn't change that. But if you hope for peace beyond the grave—"

"Peace beyond the grave!" Hunt exploded in laughter. "I thought you didn't believe in the supernatural, Ryden." Abruptly, he fell silent; then, once more his eyes danced with mad merriment. "So he's cracking, eh? Joe Carter's cracking. You wouldn't have come here if he wasn't." His eyes blazed. "I'll tell you nothing, Ryden. If I'm to die, let Carter rot as I'm going to!"

An instant later the cell door swung open. Beyond it, Ryden saw a line of guards, a chaplain. Silently he left the cell, returned to the warden's office. He sat there, watching the clock on the wall, until he heard the ominous sound in the courtyard outside that told him Jabez Hunt had fallen through the trap in the gallows and was dead. Half-

an-hour later, he re-entered Judge Carter's chambers. Carter was still pale, but again in some command of himself.

"Dead, eh?" he said dully. "You were right, Bill," he said. "I'd have been insane to have signed that reprieve. Maybe I've been insane all along." He passed a trembling hand across his forehead. "You—you see, Bill. Jabez Hunt was my twin brother!"

"Twin brother?" Ryden asked, aghast.

"We were close, very close, at first," Carter said, his voice a haunted whisper. "Everything that happened to either of us happened to the other. It was almost as if we had twin bodies, but one soul. I almost died once, when he nearly died from pneumonia, though I was as well as you are, Bill. Later, he went bad, left home. I never saw him again until the day he came into the courtroom, disguised with a beard, but with his name changed. But I'd have known him anywhere. You—you'll understand now why I couldn't speak, why I couldn't even disqualify myself, why I had to fight to get him off without capital punishment. I—I couldn't face disgrace or the death he threatened me with, Bill!"

"Come on, Joe. I'll take you home!" Ryden muttered, regaining his composure.

Twenty minutes later, Ryden's official car left the two men off in front of Judge Carter's high old brownstone mansion.

"Come in for a moment, Bill—" The judge pleaded; then his voice broke. "Bill—I—I'm afraid!"

The prosecuting attorney's face set like flint.

"All right, Joe!" he said. "But get a grip on yourself." He took the Judge's arm, helped him to the high, two-landing stoop.

Carter put a foot nervously on the first step. Then Ryden felt his body stiffen with determination, begin the climb. The attorney breathed easier, though he, himself, found he was unconsciously counting the steps as they went up. At the thirteenth, from behind, he saw the judge's footsteps waver. That was only natural, he thought. The snap came like the crack of a whip, then.

The next instant he saw the thick-set body crumple, topple back toward him. He flung out an arm to catch it.

"Blasted fool! He's fainted!" Ryden growled. Then he gasped as he felt the head loll crazily, to one side, saw the broken neck. Behind him the chauffeur came rushing up the steps. Ryden laid the body down on the landing, just above the thirteenth step. Then his blood froze as he glimpsed the face. Staring past him at the sky, sightless, dead, contorted, were the bearded features of Jabez Hunt!

REVENGE of the CORPSE

A LONELY MOUNTAIN FARM—AN OLD MAN WITH CONCEALED TREASURE—A PAIR OF LUNNING CRIMINALS IN WHOSE COLD HEARTS FESTERED THE DEADLY BLOSSOMS OF HATE, FEAR, LUST AND GREED! ADD THESE, MIX WELL WITH MURDER, AND YOU GET A STORY THAT WILL TURN YOUR SPINE TO ICE! FOR IN THE SHADOWS WAITING, IS THE SCARECROW...



OLD ABNER BAINES WORRIES A LOT ABOUT THE CROWS IN HIS CORN...

LIZZIE! DURN IT, WOMAN, WHERE ARE YE? I TOLD YE TO KEEP THEM TARNATION CROWS OUTA MY CORN! DURN THEM BLACK SINNERS!



RECKON I'LL HAVE TO DO IT M'SELF! THEY DON'T PAY NO MORE ATTENTION TO THAT DANGED SCARECROW THAN IF HE WARNT THERE!



MAYBE ABNER SHOULD BE PAYING MORE ATTENTION TO LIZZIE, HIS WIFE, WHO AT THAT MOMENT...

RECKON YER HUSBAND'S GOT HIS DANDER UP ABOUT THEM CROWS, LIZ! HE SURE DON'T PAY MUCH ATTENTION TO US!

OLD FOOL! IF YOU HAD THE GUMPTION OF A MOUSE, RUFÉ...



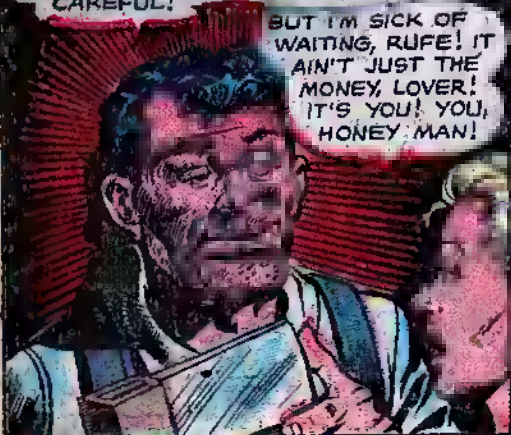
...YOU'D USE THAT AXE ON ABNER'S SCRAWNY NECK AND WE'D BE SHUT OF HIM! YOU KNOW HE'S GOT A SIGHT OF MONEY HID AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE!

NO HURRY, LIZ! THING LIKE THAT TAKES A LOT OF THINKING ABOUT!



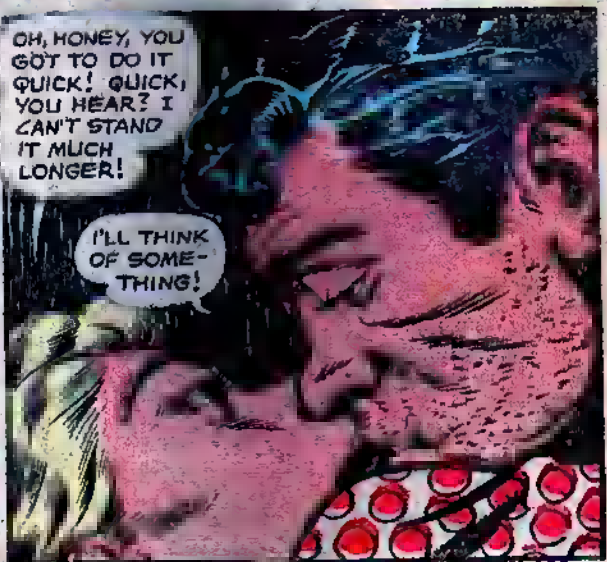
I AIN'T FORGETTING THAT ELECTRIC CHAIR, THEY GOT UP AT THE STATE PRISON! I WANT THE MONEY MUCH AS YOU DO, BUT WE GOT TO BE CAREFUL!

BUT I'M SICK OF WAITING, RUFÉ! IT AIN'T JUST THE MONEY, LOVER! IT'S YOU! YOU, HONEY MAN!



OH, HONEY, YOU GOT TO DO IT QUICK! QUICK, YOU HEAR? I CAN'T STAND IT MUCH LONGER!

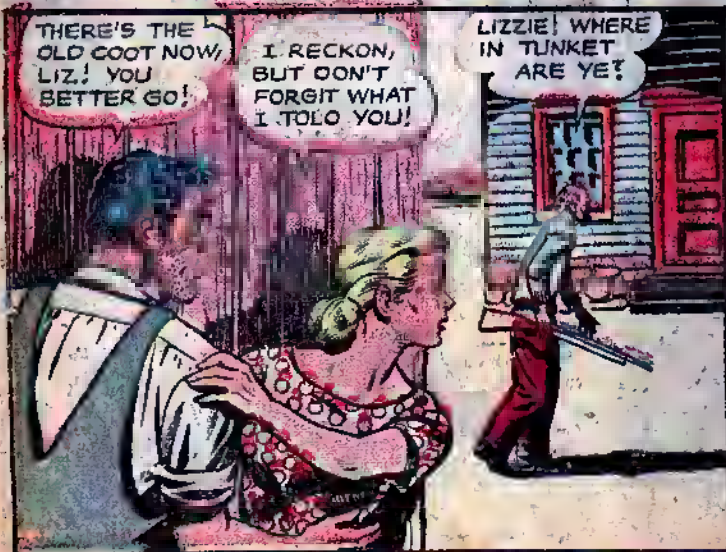
I'LL THINK OF SOMETHING!



THERE'S THE OLD COOT NOW, LIZ! YOU BETTER GO!

I RECKON, BUT DON'T FORGIT WHAT I TOLO YOU!

LIZZIE! WHERE IN TUNKET ARE YE?



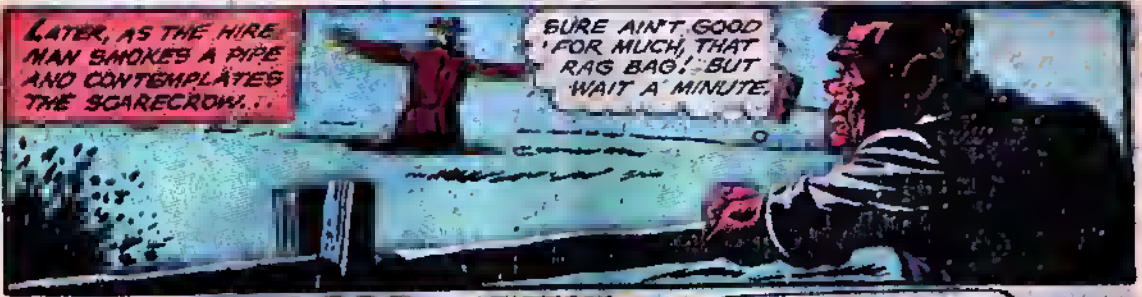
HERE I AM, ABNER! WHAT'S FRETTING YOU SO?

LITTLE FOOL! IT'S THE MONEY I WANT, NOT HER!



LATER, AS THE HIRE MAN SMOOKES A PIPE AND CONTEMPLATES THE SCARECROW...

SURE AINT GOOD 'FOR MUCH, THAT RAG BAG! BUT WAIT A MINUTE.

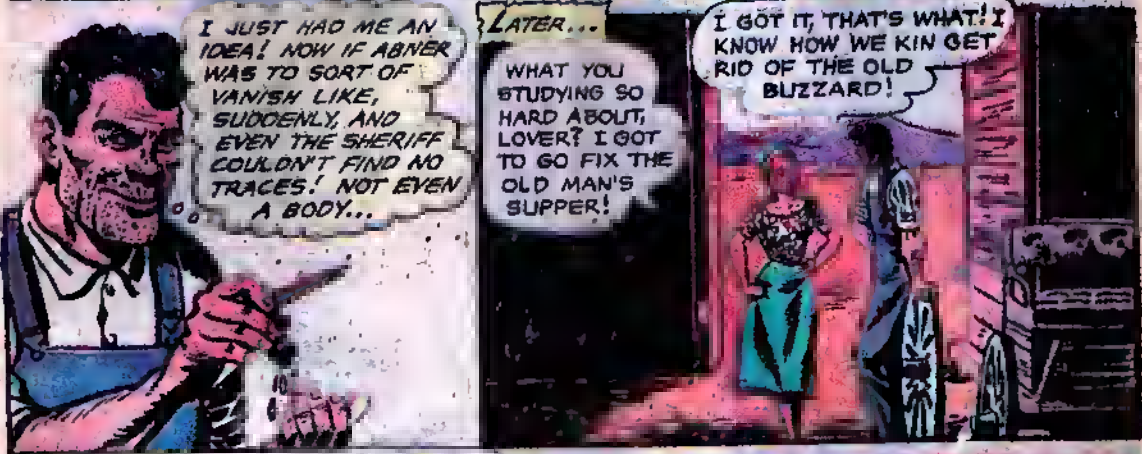


I JUST HAD ME AN IDEA! NOW IF ABNER WAS TO SORT OF VANISH LIKE, SUDDENLY, AND EVEN THE SHERIFF COULDN'T FIND NO TRACES! NOT EVEN A BODY...

LATER...

WHAT YOU STUDYING SO HARD ABOUT, LOVER? I GOT TO GO FIX THE OLD MAN'S SUPPER!

I GOT IT, THAT'S WHAT! I KNOW HOW WE KIN GET RID OF THE OLD BUZZARD!

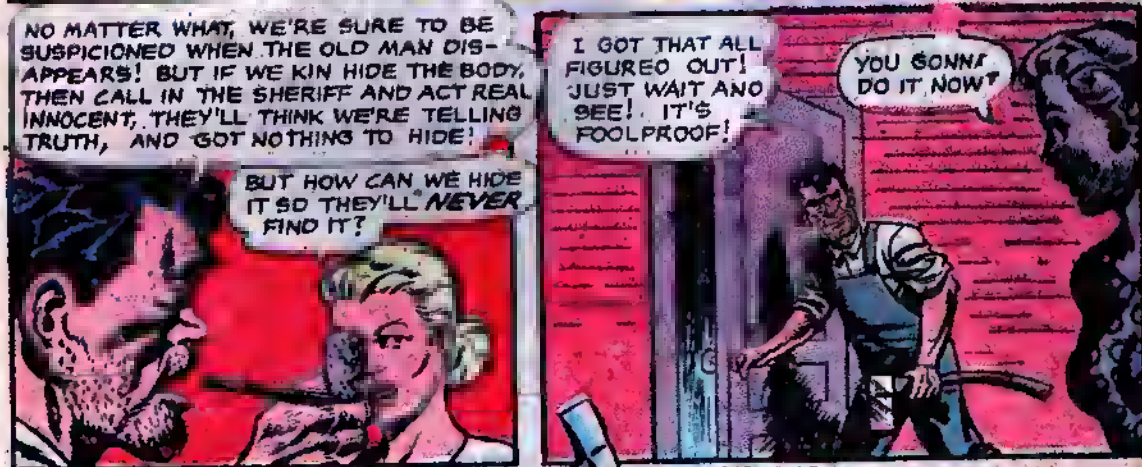


NO MATTER WHAT, WE'RE SURE TO BE SUSPICIONED WHEN THE OLD MAN DIS-APPEARS! BUT IF WE KIN HIDE THE BODY, THEN CALL IN THE SHERIFF AND ACT REAL INNOCENT, THEY'LL THINK WE'RE TELLING TRUTH, AND GOT NOTHING TO HIDE!

I GOT THAT ALL FIGURED OUT! JUST WAIT AND SEE! IT'S FOOLPROOF!

YOU GONNA DO IT NOW?

BUT HOW CAN WE HIDE IT SO THEY'LL NEVER FIND IT?

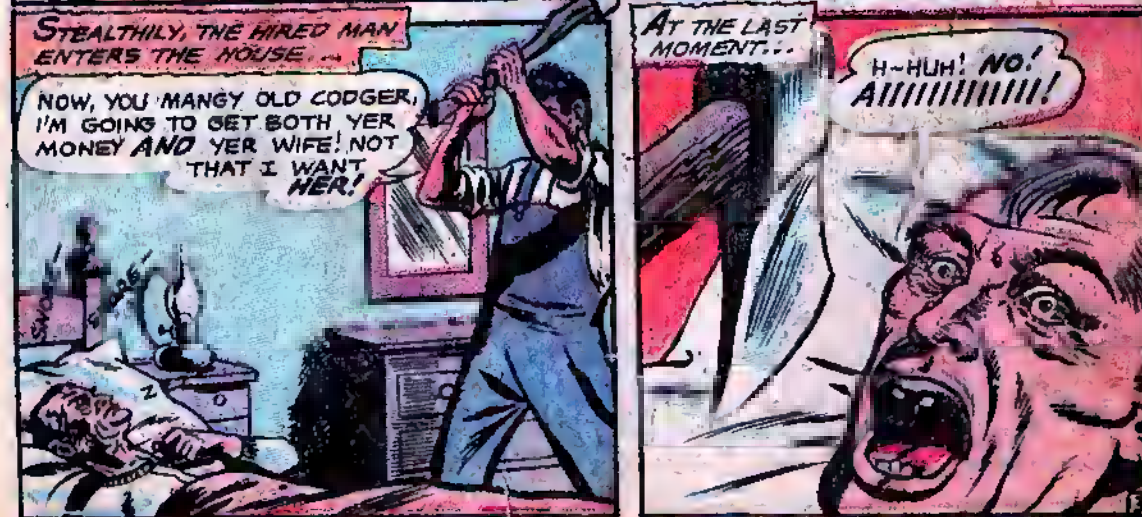


STEALTHILY, THE HIRED MAN ENTERS THE HOUSE...

NOW, YOU MANGY OLD CODGER, I'M GOING TO GET BOTH YER MONEY AND YER WIFE! NOT THAT I WANT HER!

AT THE LAST MOMENT...

H-HUH! NO! AAAAAAAAAA!

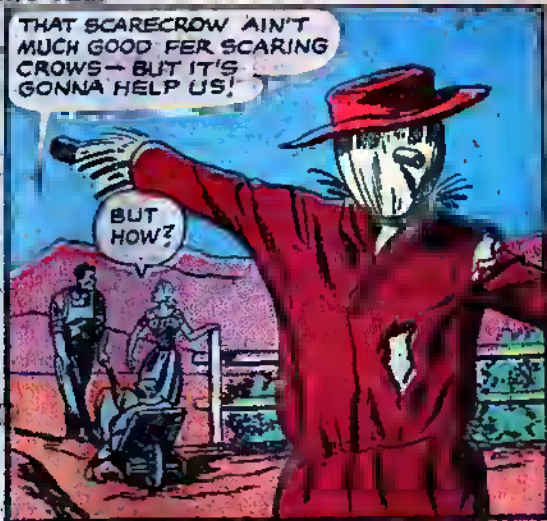




WHEN THE BLOODY DEED IS OVER...

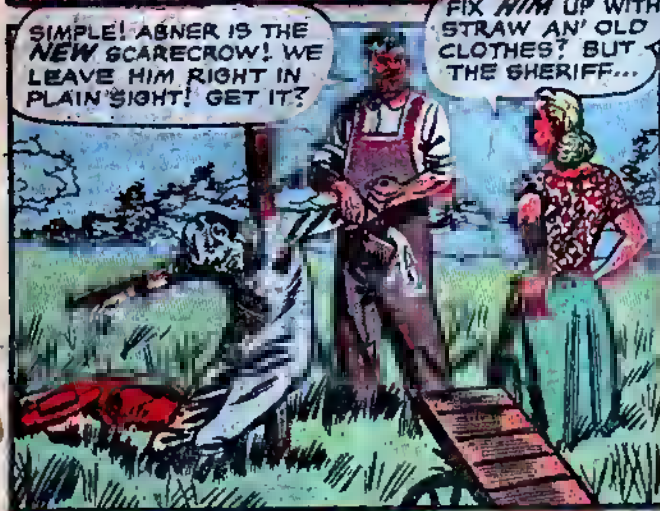
I'M GLAD YOU DID IT, LOVER, BUT HOW WE GOING TO HIDE THE B-BODY?

I GOT THAT ALL FIGURED, I SAID! C'MON, HELP ME DRAG IT TO THE CORN FIELD!



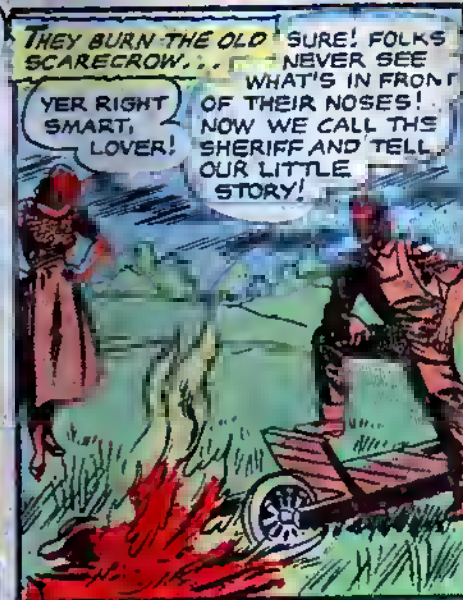
THAT SCARECROW AIN'T MUCH GOOD FER SCARING CROWS— BUT IT'S GONNA HELP US!

BUT HOW?



SIMPLE! ASNER IS THE NEW SCARECROW! WE LEAVE HIM RIGHT IN PLAIN SIGHT! GET IT?

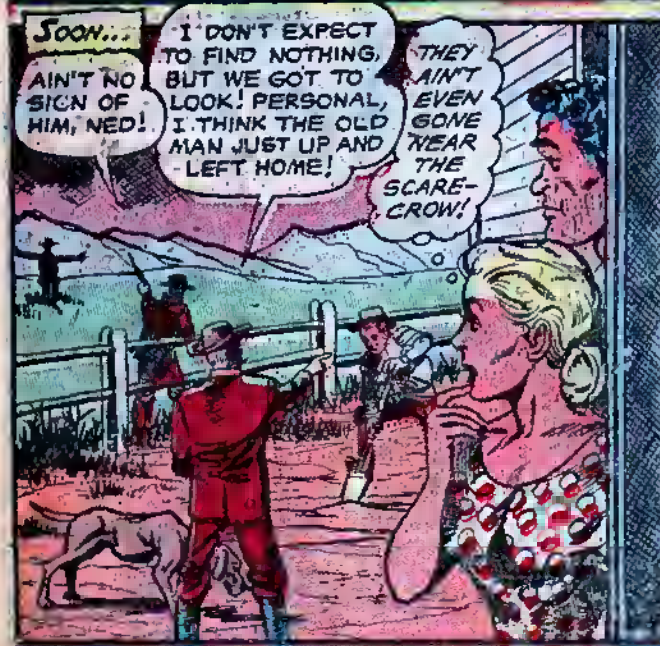
YOU MEAN FIX HIM UP WITH STRAW AN' OLD CLOTHES? BUT THE SHERIFF...



THEY BURN THE OLD SCARECROW...

SURE! FOLKS NEVER SEE WHAT'S IN FRONT OF THEIR NOSES! NOW WE CALL THE SHERIFF AND TELL OUR LITTLE STORY!

YER RIGHT SMART, LOVER!

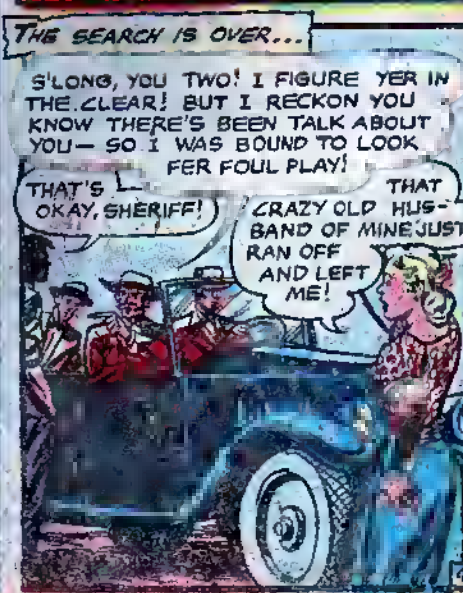


SOON...

AIN'T NO SIGN OF HIM, NED!

I DON'T EXPECT TO FIND NOTHING, BUT WE GOT TO LOOK! PERSONAL, I THINK THE OLD MAN JUST UP AND LEFT HOME!

THEY AIN'T EVEN GONE NEAR THE SCARECROW!



THE SEARCH IS OVER...

S'LONG, YOU TWO! I FIGURE YER IN THE CLEAR! BUT I RECKON YOU KNOW THERE'S BEEN TALK ABOUT YOU— SO I WAS BOUND TO LOOK FER FOUL PLAY!

THAT'S OKAY, SHERIFF!

THAT CRAZY OLD HUSBAND OF MINE JUST RAN OFF AND LEFT ME!

HARDLY IS THE SHERIFF'S CAR OUT OF SIGHT... NEXT THEY SEARCH THE BARN...

NOT A SIGN OF THE MONEY YET! BUT I KNOW THE OLD MISER HAD PLENTY HIDDEN AWAY!

WE'LL FIND IT! THEN WE'LL BURY HIM SOME- PLACE THEY ALREADY LOOKED!

WE GOING TO STAY ON HERE AFTER WE FIND THE MONEY, LOVER?

SHE STAYS ALONE!

SURE! DON'T WANT TO MAKE 'EM ANY MORE SUSPICIOUS THAN THEY ARE!



... AND THE BARN- YARD...

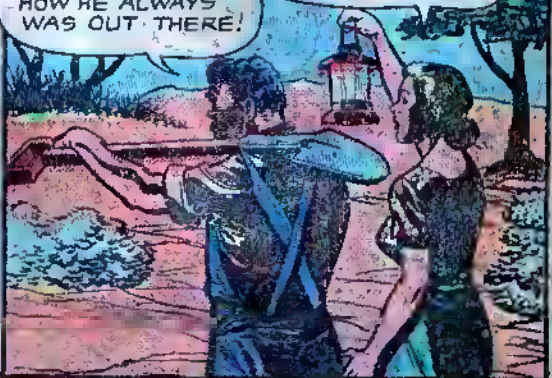
I'M GETTING WORRIED, RUF! WE DONE LOOKED IN EVERY LIKELY SPOT!

KEEP LOOKING! THAT MONEY'S GOT TO BE AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE!



FINALLY... WE'RE A COUPLE OF FOOLS, LIZ! THE OLD MAN MUSTA HID IT IN THE CORN- FIELD! YOU KNOW HOW HE ALWAYS WAS OUT THERE!

L-LET'S TRY, THIS LITTLE PATCH OF WOODS FIRST, LOVER! I-I DON'T MUCH LIKE GOING IN THE FIELD WITH IT!



SUDDENLY...

RUF! LOOK! THE SCARECROW - GONE!

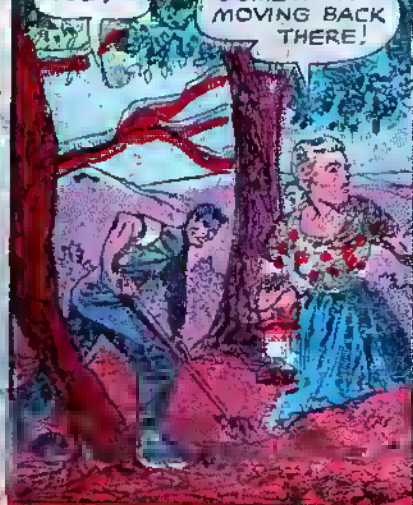
DON'T BE A FOOL! THE WIND PROBABLY BLEW IT OVER! THE CORN'S HIDING IT!



SO THEY DIG AND DIG...

C'MON AND DIG! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?

I-I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING MOVING BACK THERE!



IN THE BRUSH A DREAD- FUL FACE WATCHES THEM.

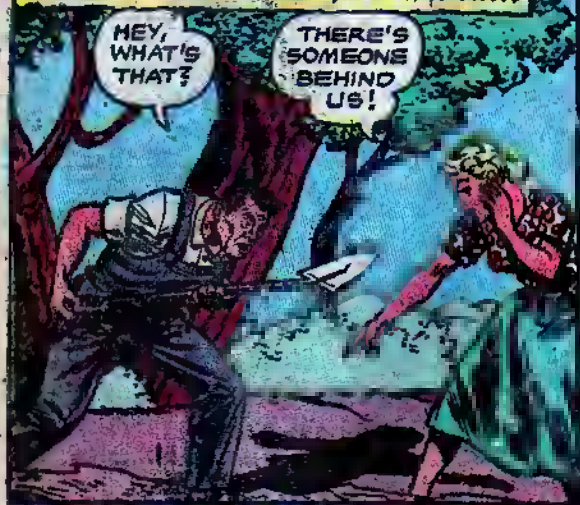
HEH-HEH! AFTER MY MONEY, ARE THEY?



AND SUDDENLY, OVER THE GREEDY PAIR,
THERE FALLS A GROTESQUE SHADOW...

HEY,
WHAT'S
THAT?

THERE'S
SOMEONE
BEHIND
US!

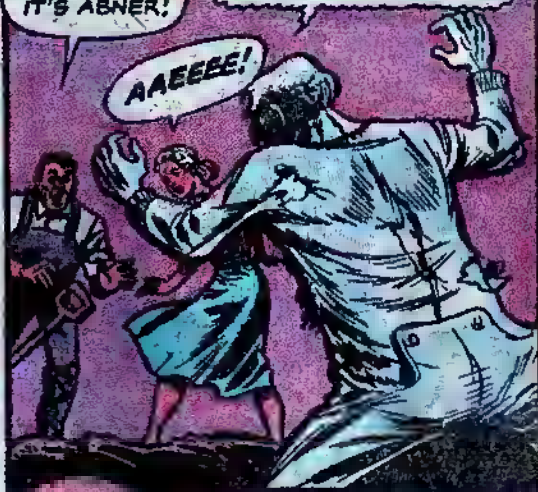


AND...

YAAAAA!
IT'S ABNER!

HEH-HEH! YE DIDN'T
KNOW THE DEAD COULD
COME BACK, DID YE?

AAAAEE!



MURDERED... DON'T LET
THE CROWS EAT ME! I'LL
GET YE!

I'M GETTING
OUT OF
HERE!

EEEEEEEEE—
HELP ME,
RUF!



LIZZIE
HIDES IN
A LITTLE
PATCH
OF BRUSH...

T-TAT AWFUL T-THING!
ITS FACE, ALL EATEN
AWAY! OH—IT'S
COMING THIS
WAY!



CLAW-LIKE HANDS REACH FOR HER THROAT...

HEH-HEH!
GOT YE!

AAAAAAAAAAAA—



HA-HA—I'LL SHOW YE HOW
TO MAKE A REAL SCARECROW!

HELP!
AAAAEEEEE—



JOURNEY INTO FEAR



THE SCREAMING WOMAN IS
DROGGED INTO THE CORN-
FIELD...

NO! DON'T!
HAVE MERCY!

MERCY, IS IT? DID
YE AND THAT
LOUT OF A
HIRED MAN
HAVE MERCY
ON ME?



WHAT ARE
YOU GOING
TO DO?
C-CALLING
TO THOSE
CROWS...

THEY'LL
SHOW YE!
THEY'LL
PICK OUT
YER EYES!



AS THOUGH DESTINY THE
CORPSE-MAN, THE FIERCE
BIRDS ATTACK...

M-MY EYES!
EEEEEEEEEE--



AND...

YER TURN
NOW, RUFE!
I'LL FIX YOU
SAME AS I
DID HER!

YOU OLD FOOL! I DON'T
BELIEVE IN GHOSTS!
THIS TIME I'LL MAKE
SURE OF YOU!



FOOL! DO YE THINK
THAT SHOTGUN CAN
HURT ME? YE
DONE KILLED
ME ONCE!

HUH!



Y-YOU ARE A GHOST!
T-TWO SHOTS AND
YER STILL COMING!

HEH-HEH! AND
NOW YE GO TO
THE CROWS SAME
AS THAT JEZEBEL!



SEE HOW SHE
LOOKS NOW!
NO EYES!

N-NO! DON'T!
YAAAAAAA--

SOON THE DOOMED PAIR ARE TIGHTLY BOUND...

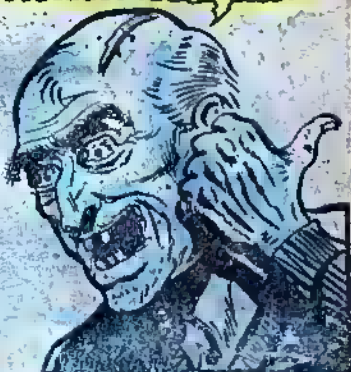
ABNER! PLEASE!
YOU C-CAN'T DO
THIS T-TO US!

AND NOW I'M GOING
TO-(CHUCKLE)-TELL
YE A
LITTLE
SECRET!

YIIIIIIII-
LET ME
GO!



YE REMEMBER THAT OLD
SCARECROW YE BURNED?
THAT'S WHERE I - HEH-HEH-
HID MY MONEY! YE BURNED
IT UP! HA-HA-HA-HA!



NOW COME AND GET
'EM, CROWS! WHEN I
WAS ALIVE YE WAS
ALWAYS AFTER MY
CORN, BUT HERE'S A
REAL FEAST FOR
YE! GO TO IT!

AND THE BLACK BIRDS FORM
A SOMBER CLOUD OF DOOM...

T-THEY'RE
GOING TO
EAT US!



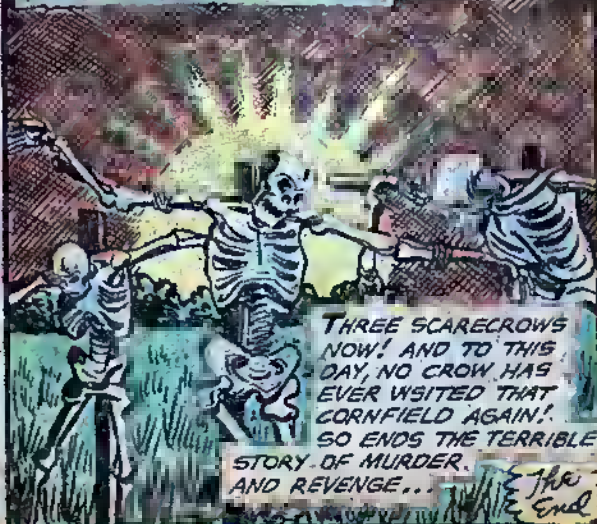
IN A MATTER OF MOMENTS...

HEH-HEH-HEH! THEM
CROWS SURE DID A GOOD
JOB! AND MORE COMING-
THOUSANDS OF 'EM!
HA-HA-HA-HO-HO-
HO-HO!



AS THE CORPSE-MAN SLOWLY ENTERS
THE CORNFIELD TO JOIN THE DEAD
LIZZIE AND ABNER, A NEW FLOCK OF
FIERCE CROWS DESCEND TO PICK
AND TEAR...

AND WHEN THE SUN RISES...



THREE SCARECROWS
NOW! AND TO THIS
DAY, NO CROW HAS
EVER VISITED THAT
CORNFIELD AGAIN!
SO ENDS THE TERRIBLE
STORY OF MURDER,
AND REVENGE...

The
End

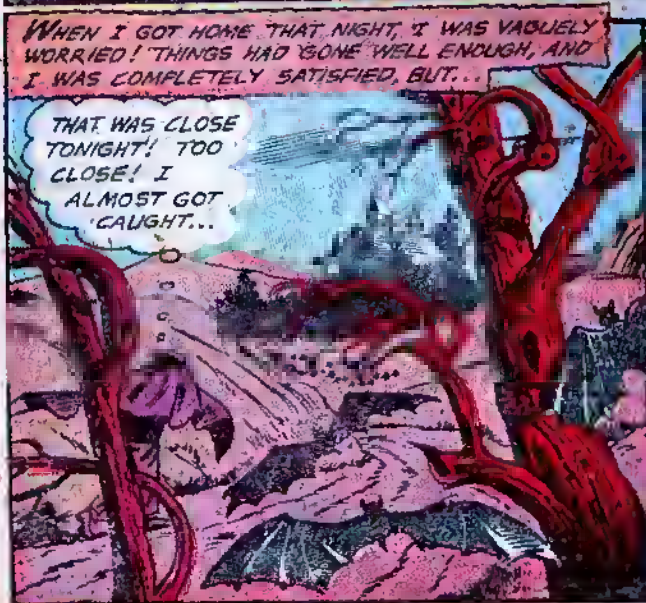
VAMPIRES TWO

I WAS WORRIED AT FIRST! SOMEBODY WAS OUT TO SPOIL THINGS FOR ME, AND THEY WERE DOING A PRETTY GOOD JOB OF IT, TOO! AND I COULDN'T STAND BY AND SEE EVERYTHING THAT I HAD BUILT UP GO TO POT! I WAS DESPERATE! SO, OUT OF A DARK DREAM, I CONJURED UP A PLAN! I ARRANGED THE BLACK WEDDING...

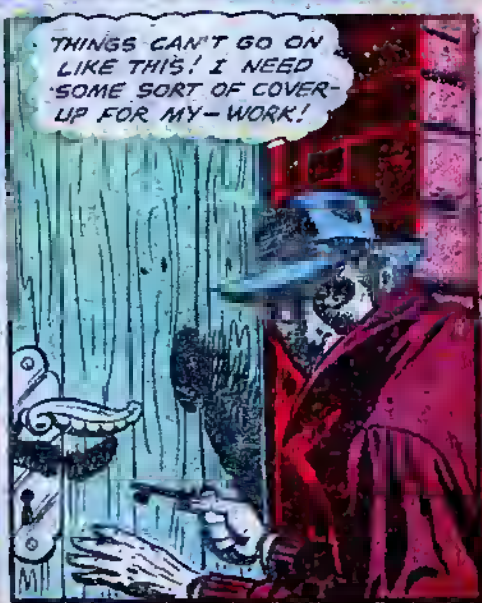


WHEN I GOT HOME THAT NIGHT, I WAS VAGUELY WORRIED! THINGS HAD GONE WELL ENOUGH, AND I WAS COMPLETELY SATISFIED, BUT...

THAT WAS CLOSE TONIGHT! TOO CLOSE! I ALMOST GOT CAUGHT...



THINGS CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS! I NEED SOME SORT OF COVER-UP FOR MY WORK!





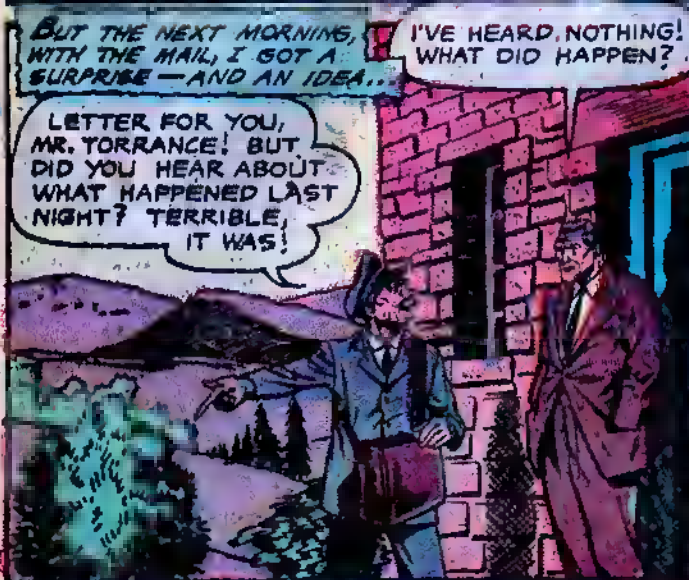
I HAD LIVED IN GAUNTSVILLE A LONG TIME, IN THE SAME SHABBY OLD HOUSE, AND I DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE...

MY BOOKS, ALL MY OLD POSSESSIONS! IT WOULD BREAK MY HEART TO MOVE!



AS USUAL I WASHED MY HANDS...

AND I'VE BEEN SO TIRED LATELY, REALLY WORN OUT! I NEED A LONG REST!



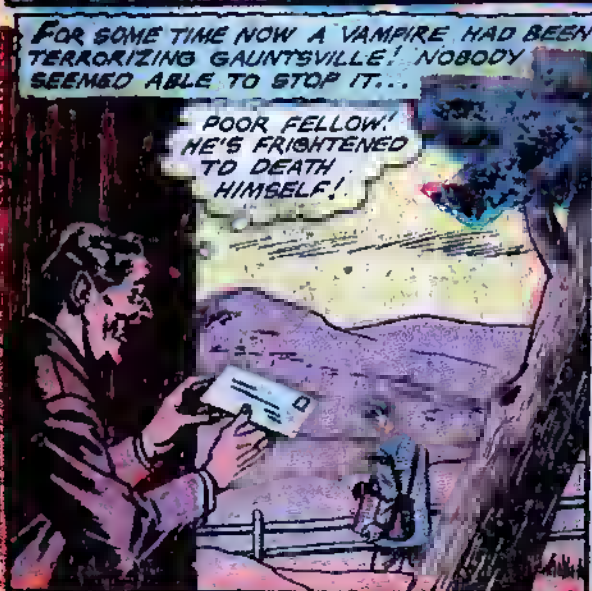
BUT THE NEXT MORNING, WITH THE MAIL, I GOT A SURPRISE—AND AN IDEA...

I'VE HEARD NOTHING! WHAT DID HAPPEN?

LETTER FOR YOU, MR. TORRANCE! BUT DID YOU HEAR ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT? TERRIBLE, IT WAS!

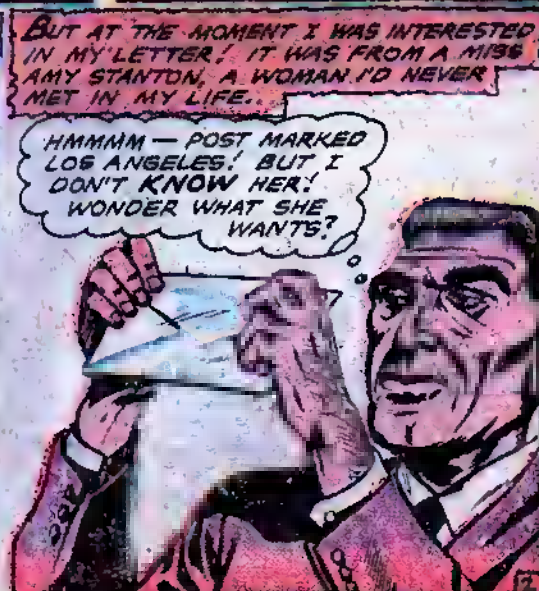
THE V-VAMPIRE STRUCK AGAIN! GOT A POOR LITTLE GIRL OVER ON RILEY STREET! DRAINED HER DRY, HE DID!

HOW TERRIBLE! WHY DON'T THE STUPID POLICE STOP THESE OUTRAGES?



FOR SOME TIME NOW A VAMPIRE HAD BEEN TERRORIZING GAUNTSVILLE! NOBODY SEEMED ABLE TO STOP IT...

POOR FELLOW! HE'S FRIGHTENED TO DEATH HIMSELF!



BUT AT THE MOMENT I WAS INTERESTED IN MY LETTER! IT WAS FROM A MISS AMY STANTON, A WOMAN I'D NEVER MET IN MY LIFE...

HMMMM—POST MARKED LOS ANGELES! BUT I DON'T KNOW HER! WONDER WHAT SHE WANTS?

SOON FOUND OUT...

Dear Mr. Torrance:
I have long been an admirer of your books! I seem to know more than anyone else in the world about psychic research and the occult! I have also heard that you are of middle age and a bachelor! Now, you're going to think me terribly forward, but I wonder...

I WAS AMAZED AT HER STRANGE LETTER: BECAUSE SHE WANTED TO MARRY ME! AND IT SO HAPPENED THAT WHAT I NEEDED MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE AT THE MOMENT WAS A WIFE...

THIS IS A HEAVEN-SENT OPPORTUNITY! A WIFE WILL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING! I ONLY HOPE SHE ISN'T TOO BAD LOOKING...



A FEW NIGHTS LATER, THE VAMPIRE STRUCK AGAIN! I WAS AWAY FROM HOME AT THE TIME...



BUT LUCKILY I GOT HOME IN TIME TO MEET AMY STANTON AT THE STATION THE NEXT DAY...

YES! AND YOU'RE MR. TORRANCE? IT'S SO NICE TO MEET YOU AT LAST!

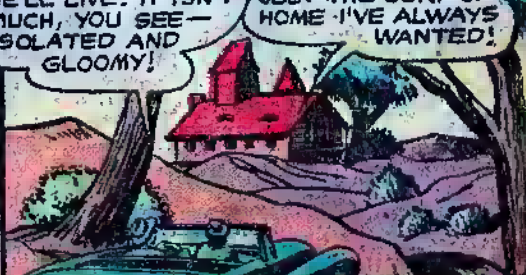
I COULDN'T IMAGINE WHY SHE WOULD WANT TO MARRY AN OLD PARTY LIKE ME, BUT IT BECAME INCREASINGLY EVIDENT THAT SHE DID WANT TO...

WHY—SHE'S A KNOCKOUT! LOVELY!

MISS STANTON?

AND THIS IS WHERE WE'LL LIVE! IT ISN'T MUCH, YOU SEE—ISOLATED AND GLOOMY!

OH, BUT I LOVE IT! JUST THE SORT OF HOME I'VE ALWAYS WANTED!



I COULDN'T LET HER MARRY ME WITHOUT FIRST TELLING HER WHAT WAS GOING ON IN OUR TOWN, SO...

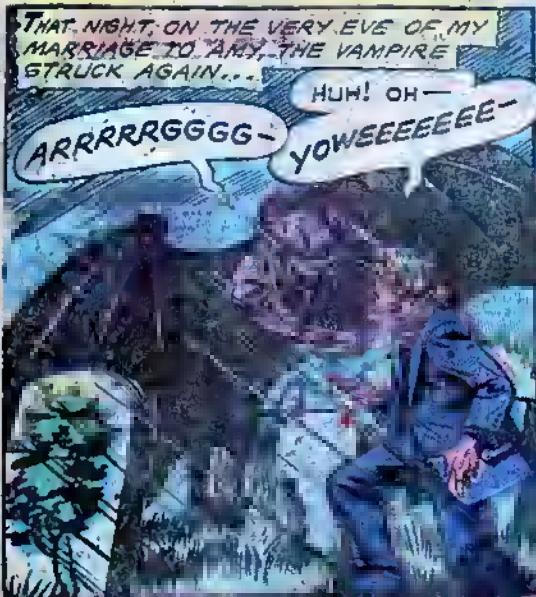
YOU'RE SURE, NOW? THIS IS A MOST UNUSUAL, ER, ROMANCE AT BEST, AMY! YOU MUST BE SURE YOU AREN'T MAKING A MISTAKE!

BUT I'M NOT! I'M NOT A CHILD—WILLIAM! AND I CAME ALL THE WAY, FROM CALIFORNIA TO MARRY YOU!

THERE'S A VAMPIRE IN GAUNTSVILLE, AMY! NO ONE KNOWS WHO IT IS! SO, KNOWING MY INTEREST IN SUCH THINGS, I KNOW YOU WON'T MIND IF I'M OUT VERY LATE SOMETIMES! I...

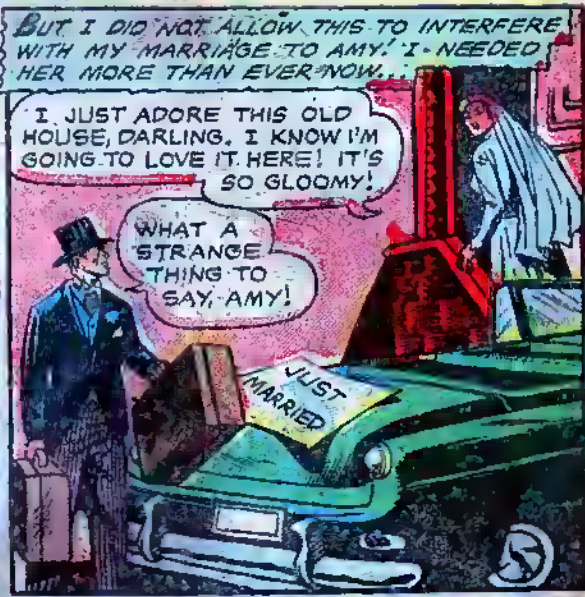
YOU DON'T NEED TO TELL ME, DARLING! YOU'RE TRYING TO CATCH THE HORRIBLE CREATURE! I HOPE YOU DO, TOO!





THAT NIGHT, ON THE VERY EVE OF MY MARRIAGE TO AMY, THE VAMPIRE STRUCK AGAIN...

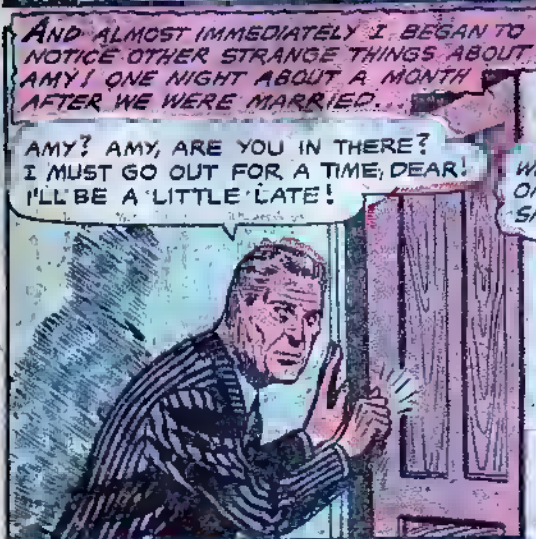
ARRRRRGGGG—
HUH! OH—
YOWEEEEEEEE—



BUT I DID NOT ALLOW THIS TO INTERFERE WITH MY MARRIAGE TO AMY. I NEEDED HER MORE THAN EVER NOW.

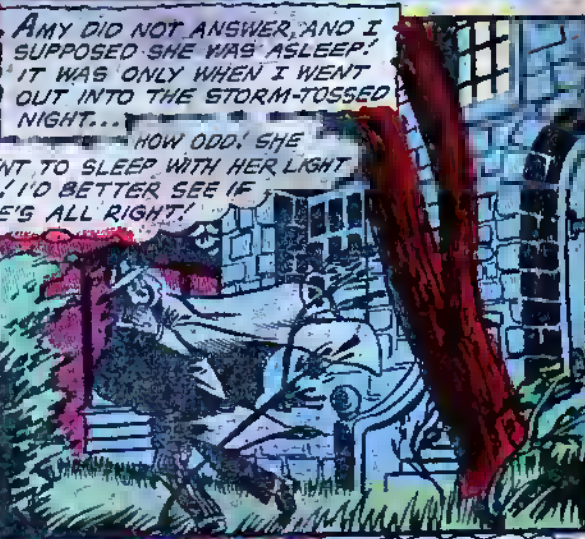
I JUST ADORE THIS OLD HOUSE, DARLING. I KNOW I'M GOING TO LOVE IT HERE! IT'S SO GLOOMY!

WHAT A STRANGE THING TO SAY, AMY!



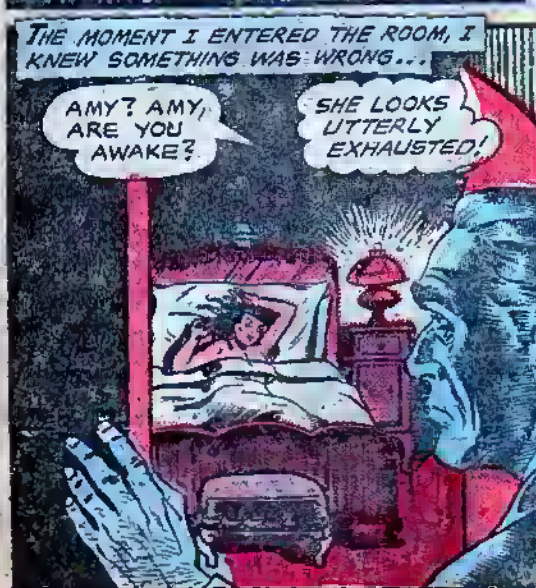
AND ALMOST IMMEDIATELY I BEGAN TO NOTICE OTHER STRANGE THINGS ABOUT AMY! ONE NIGHT ABOUT A MONTH AFTER WE WERE MARRIED...

AMY? AMY, ARE YOU IN THERE? I MUST GO OUT FOR A TIME, DEAR! I'LL BE A LITTLE LATE!



AMY DID NOT ANSWER, AND I SUPPOSED SHE WAS ASLEEP. IT WAS ONLY WHEN I WENT OUT INTO THE STORM-TOSSED NIGHT...

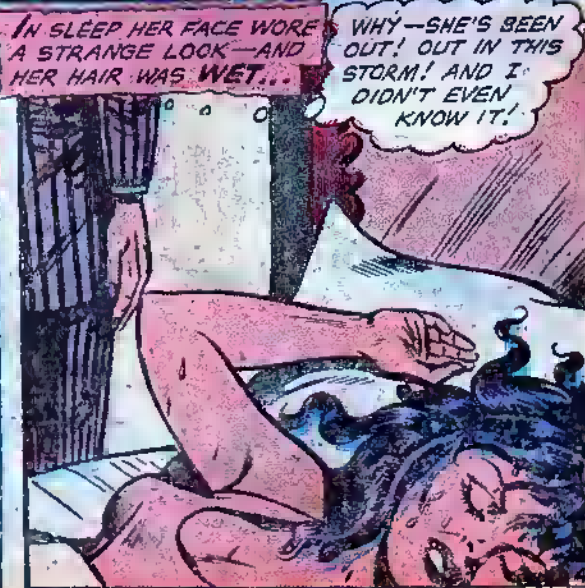
HOW ODD! SHE WENT TO SLEEP WITH HER LIGHT ON! I'D BETTER SEE IF SHE'S ALL RIGHT!



THE MOMENT I ENTERED THE ROOM, I KNEW SOMETHING WAS WRONG...

AMY? AMY, ARE YOU AWAKE?

SHE LOOKS UTTERLY EXHAUSTED!



IN SLEEP HER FACE WORE A STRANGE LOOK—AND HER HAIR WAS WET...

WHY—SHE'S BEEN OUT! OUT IN THIS STORM! AND I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW IT!

I HADN'T LIKED THE LOOK ON AMY'S FACE! I KNEW IT TOO WELL! SO I WASN'T MUCH SURPRISED WHEN I GOT A CALL THE NEXT DAY...

AND I WAS RIGHT... OF COURSE...

I THINK I KNOW!

BUT THEN I GOT THE SHOCK OF MY LIFE...

THE POLICE COMMISSIONER CAN WANT ONLY ONE THING WITH ME! MY HELP IN CATCHING THE VAMPIRE!

WE HAVEN'T ASKED YOU BEFORE, TORRANCE, BUT NOW...

THE VAMPIRE AGAIN — THE LITTLE BOY ON DALTON STREET

YES, THAT ONE! BUT THE WORST WAS THE GIRL OVER ON POMEROY LANE! THIS FIEND LITERALLY TORE HER TO BITS!

NIGHT!

P-POMEROY LANE? Y-YOU MEAN THERE WERE TWO

VAMPIRE ATTACKS LAST NIGHT?



I FELT FAINT! I MADE SOME FEEBLE EXCUSE AND HURRIEDLY LEFT...

I KNEW WHAT I MUST DO! A TERRIBLE SUSPICION WAS FORMING IN MY MIND...

I'M SORRY, GENTLEMEN, BUT I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING I MUST DO! I'LL-ER-SEE YOU LATER!

BUT WE...

YOU MUST HELP US, TORRANCE! YOUR SPECIALTY IS...

AMY MUST HAVE GONE OUT FOR A TIME! NOW'S MY CHANCE TO LOOK AROUND!



I NOTICED THE MIRROR AT ONCE...

SUDDENLY...

HMMM... TURNED TO THE WALL! THAT'S ONE SURE SIGN! AND I'VE NEVER SEEN HER LOOK INTO A GLASS!

OWWW — GET OUT OF HERE! SCAT, YOU! SCAT!





INSTANTLY I REALIZED MY MISTAKE! I SHOULD HAVE CAPTURED THE CAT AND EXAMINED IT...

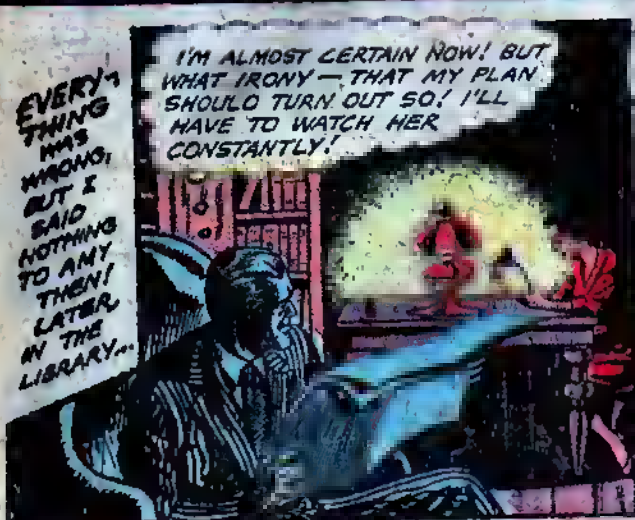
MAYBE I CAN GET IT WHEN IT COMES DOWN OFF THE ROOF!



BUT...

AMY! Y-YOU STARTLED ME!

HELLO, DARLING! YOU LOOK UPSET! IS ANYTHING WRONG?



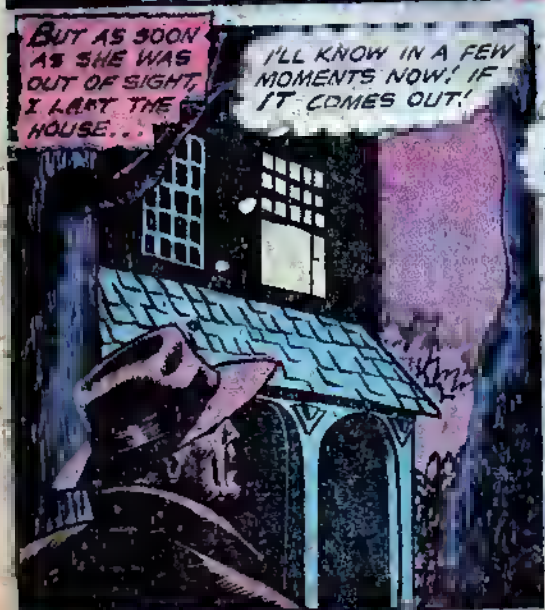
EVERYTHING WAS WRONG, BUT I SAID NOTHING TO ANY THEN! LATER IN THE LIBRARY...

I'M ALMOST CERTAIN NOW! BUT WHAT IRONY — THAT MY PLAN SHOULD TURN OUT SO! I'LL HAVE TO WATCH HER CONSTANTLY!



HO-HUM! I'M DREADFULLY TIRED, DEAR! I THINK — (YAWN) — I'LL GO TO BED!

ALL RIGHT, AMY! I'LL BE READING VERY LATE TONIGHT! GOOD NIGHT!



BUT AS SOON AS SHE WAS OUT OF SIGHT, I LOST THE HOUSE...

I'LL KNOW IN A FEW MOMENTS NOW! IF IT COMES OUT!



AND THEN I SAW IT! A HUGE BLACK CAT...

YES! I WAS RIGHT! AMY IS ONE!

AMY HAD NO SUSPICION THAT I WAS FOLLOWING HER! IT WAS EASY...

I MUSTN'T DO ANYTHING HASTILY! I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT JUST HOW POWERFUL SHE IS FIRST!

I WAS RIGHT! I WATCHED AMY LAST OFF THE FORM OF THE CAT AND GRADUALLY...

THE VAMPIRE SHAPE! OH—THIS IS RICH! ME—MARRYING A VAMPIRE!

HERE LIES ROBERT GIBBS

SHE WAS AFTER PREY NOW, THIRSTING FOR HUMAN BLOOD.

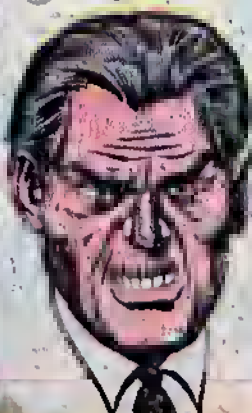
HMMM—WO! SHE'S AFTER LAST NIGHT IT, GIRL IN POMERO! WHAT A SHOCK I GOT WHEN I HEARD ABOUT THAT!

THAT HOUSE! BUT NO—SHE CAN'T! I MUSTN'T LET HER...

THE LITTLE MIZNER GIRL! LOVELY LITTLE CREATURE! I CAN'T LET AMY DO IT! AND, ANYWAY, I MIGHT AS WELL STOP HER RIGHT NOW!

NO, AMY! YOU MUSTN'T! COME BACK!

OOOOOOHH—YOU!



JOURNEY INTO FEAR

YES - BUT I KNEW

W! HAH-HAH-HAH! I'M
D USE OUR MARRIAGE
GETTING SUSPICIOUS, AND
OF A PSYCHIC

NO MORE TALK, FOOL! I'LL
KILL YOU NOW - AND SAVE
THE MIZNER GIRL UNTIL
TOMORROW NIGHT!

I DON'T
THINK SO,
AMY!

I'M SORRY
TOO, AMY! FATE
PLAYED US A
STRANGE TRICK

THE LAST MOMENT SHE SAW AND
UNDERSTOOD...

NO! IT CAN'T - Y-YOU
CAN'T... YIIIIEEEEEE-

I THOUGHT I COULD
STOP YOU, AMY! I'M
OLDER AND I HAVE
MORE POWER!

NO-
AAAAA-AAA-

AND WHEN SHE WAS DEAD...

SORRY, MY DEAR, BUT
I HAD TO DO IT! MY
PLANS WENT ALL
WRONG, TOO! I WAS
USING YOU FOR A
COVER-UP, BUT...

...YOU TURNED OUT TO
BE DANGEROUS! THERE'S
NO ROOM IN GAUNTSVILLE
FOR TWO VAMPIRES!

THE
END